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Summary record of the 50th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 6 June 2008, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

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08-37095 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/62/741, A/62/752, A/62/766 and Add.1, A/62/783 and Corr.1 and A/62/814 and Add.1)

1. **Ms. Kane** (Under-Secretary-General for Management), introducing the report of the Secretary-General containing the performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/766 and Add.1), said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $189,071,400 for the support account, and that expenditure had been $177,696,400, leaving an unencumbered balance of $11,322,000, representing an implementation rate of 94.0 per cent.

2. The main causes of the variance, explained in the performance report, were lower than expected expenditure on non-post resources, partially offset by additional requirements for posts, communications and medical services. The Secretariat had continued to improve the management of peacekeeping operations, with expected accomplishments achieving progress, as demonstrated in the results-based frameworks contained in the report and its addendum. The General Assembly was invited to take the action described in section V of the report in order to address the requirements for the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008.

3. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/783 and Corr.1), which represented a proposed total of $287,651,700, she said that the sum concerned was $57,141,800, or 24.8 per cent, higher than the resources approved for 2007/08.

4. Although the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/279 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations, had provided additional resources, a significant increase in peacekeeping tasks had occurred after the adoption of the resolution, as a result of the establishment by the Security Council of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). Accordingly, the proposed budget for 2008/09 of the s.pport account for peacekeeping operations sought additional resources to address the continuing growth in the scale, scope and complexity of peacekeeping.

5. The increase was caused mainly by the proposal for 156 new temporary posts, including 78 posts converted from general temporary assistance positions, by an increase in standard salary costs, and by the application of a 4.9-per-cent vacancy rate to all continuing posts. Most of the requested increase in resources resulted from greater post requirements, which stood at $34,887,700, representing a 23.0 per cent increase over the approved support account post resources for 2007/08.

6. The $22,254,100 net increase in non-post resources resulted from increased expenditure on consultants, travel, facilities and infrastructure, communications, information technology and other supplies, services and equipment. The increase was partially offset by reduced expenditure on general temporary assistance and medical services.

7. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive analysis of the Office of Military Affairs in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/62/752), she said that the document considered the significant evolution in peacekeeping and the implications of that evolution for supporting military activities in field operations. To meet the challenges identified, and building upon lessons learned from the Strategic Military Cell, it also proposed ways to strengthen the Office of Military Affairs through additional restructuring. Lastly, it provided information on additional support account resource requirements resulting from the proposal for 92 new posts, and included the proposed organizational structure of the Office of Military Affairs.

8. The preliminary report on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/279 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations (A/62/741), submitted in response to a request made by the General Assembly in that resolution, reviewed the progress made in restructuring the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including the establishment of the Department of Field Support. Highlighting other recent developments in peacekeeping and ongoing

challenges in mounting, maintaining and sustaining peacekeeping operations, it also indicated the effect of those developments and challenges on the process of restructuring.

9. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) conveyed apologies on behalf of Mr. Walker, Chairman of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC), who was unavailable to present the IAAC report on the budget proposals of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) with respect to the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/62/814 and Add.1), which had been circulated to the members of the Committee. The report, which had been prepared in accordance with the IAAC terms of reference annexed to General Assembly resolution 61/275, explained the belief of IAAC that, in connection with the proposed restructuring of the OIOS Inspection, Evaluation, Internal Audit and Investigations Divisions, OIOS should avoid establishing a proposed budget before its workplans were finalized. The addendum to the report, meanwhile, set out the views of IAAC on the specific matter of restructuring the OIOS Investigations Division.

10. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the report of the Advisory Committee on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, which contained recommendations on the series of reports of the Secretary-General connected with the support account (A/62/741, A/62/766 and Add.1, A/62/783 and A/62/752) and had, exceptionally, been made available to the Committee in advance, unedited, form in English only.*

11. In its observations regarding the preliminary report on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/279 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations (A/62/741), the Advisory Committee acknowledged that the restructuring process was still evolving, but expressed disappointment that the Secretariat had not provided a more transparent and detailed account of the progress achieved and the obstacles encountered. In the Advisory Committee's view, inadequately explored potential problems involving the proposed chain of command, accountability, coordinating and maintaining an adequate system of checks and balances, the role of the Deputy Secretary-General, the role of integrated operational teams and delegation of authority from the Department of Management to the Department of Field Support should be addressed in detail in the comprehensive report to be submitted to the General Assembly at the second part of its resumed sixty-third session.

12. The Advisory Committee was concerned at the delays in selecting and appointing senior officials of the Department of Field Support and at the potential effect on performance of many senior managers in that department and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations being recent appointees. Taking the view that both departments should begin to have more stable personnel structures, it requested the Secretary-General to manage the sequence of staffing changes in a phased manner in the future, especially for senior positions.

13. The increase in the volume of the support account in successive years had been justified on the grounds of increasing demand for peacekeeping operations, and the proposed support account budget for 2008/09 had continued that pattern; however, there was no reason to assume that peacekeeping activities would continue to grow indefinitely, or that the support account should grow at the same pace as those activities. The Advisory Committee therefore urged the Secretary-General to complete the comprehensive analysis of the evolution of the support account requested by the General Assembly, for consideration alongside the next proposed support account budget.

14. In its observations regarding the report of the Secretary-General containing the performance report on the budget of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/62/766 and Add.1), the Advisory Committee noted that the reason for the funding shortfalls of the support account for 2006/07 and 2007/08 was the incorrect application of the excess balances available in the Peacekeeping Reserve Fund for the periods ended 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2005. It recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's suggested method of regularizing the shortfall.

* The report was subsequently issued as document A/62/855.

15. In its observations regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 (A/62/783 and Corr.1), the Advisory Committee had made recommendations regarding post and non-post resources based on what it considered necessary for direct support to operational requirements in the field. Accordingly, of the 156 posts requested by the Secretary-General in his report, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of 54, recommended against approval of 31, and recommended the continuation of 71 general temporary assistance positions.

16. In view of the pattern of recent years, it recommended that continuing posts should have applied to them a vacancy rate of 8 per cent (rather than the proposed 4.9 per cent) for Professional and 4.5 per cent (rather than the proposed 1.5 per cent) for General Service and related posts. In several cases, continued general temporary assistance had been sought from one budget period to the next, a practice which the Advisory Committee considered to lack budgetary transparency and to complicate proper oversight. As general temporary assistance was intended to cope with exceptional workload or to replace staff on leave, it should not be used for functions of a continuing nature or for prolonged periods.

17. Addressing the proposals in the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive analysis of the Office of Military Affairs in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/62/752), the Advisory Committee expressed regret that they had not been made part of the proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations, an approach which would have facilitated the analysis of the support account resources as a whole, and that they had not been presented in a results-based format. It would also have been an advantage to seek the views of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

18. In the view of the Advisory Committee, the report contained insufficient data to support the analysis of the capacity constraints which had hampered the Office of Military Affairs in the fulfilment of its mandate. The Advisory Committee questioned the proposed structure of the Office, which seemed unnecessarily complicated and failed to take sufficient account of possible complementarity with other units supporting peacekeeping activities, and also the establishment of analogies with national military strategic headquarters, which might not be relevant to the Office. However, it saw merit in enhancing the capacity of the Office in some areas, within its existing structure, and therefore recommended approval of 29 of the 92 additional posts proposed by the Secretary-General. It also recommended that the Secretary-General should indicate in the next proposed budget for the support account the full impact of the approved posts.

19. The Advisory Committee, recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/247, had endorsed the recommendation made by the Advisory Committee in its report on strengthening investigations (A/62/7/Add.35) that a complete analysis and justification of the envisaged restructuring of the Investigations Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services should be conducted, recommended against the proposed conversion of 63 Investigator positions funded as general temporary assistance, believing that they should retain that status pending the submission and consideration of the analysis, and also, for the time being, recommended against approval of the resources required to implement restructuring.

20. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed concern that the report of the Advisory Committee on the financial performance report for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 and proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 had only just been received by the Fifth Committee, one week after the scheduled conclusion of the second part of the resumed session. Moreover, as the report was available in only one of the official languages, the European Union wished to recall its position that the introduction of reports not translated into all the official languages should be permitted only on an exceptional basis, justified by time considerations.

21. Having previously expressed its opposition to the presentation of reports in a piecemeal manner, the European Union would have preferred in the current instance to have examined a single comprehensive report covering all the issues relating to the support account for peacekeeping operations, rather than to be

obliged to consider separately the structure of the Office of Military Affairs, a priority issue highlighted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/279 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations.

22. **Ms. Stevens** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that the reports before the Committee provided the basis for reviewing progress in the year that had elapsed since the decision of the General Assembly to restructure the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and increase the resources of the support account for peacekeeping operations.

23. The Member States were responsible for ensuring that United Nations peace and security efforts were adequately resourced and equipped to pursue their mandates, and had placed increasing responsibilities and expectations on the Secretariat in recent years. While the three delegations supported efforts to improve the strategic management of increasingly complex peace operations in the field, the proposed 2008/09 budget for the support account represented a substantial increase over the budget for 2007/08 and should be considered carefully, particularly in the light of the additional capacity approved only one year previously, the size of proposed peacekeeping budgets and the cost implications of delayed recruitment.

24. The three delegations noted the indication by the Secretary-General that additional resources were required in part to meet the needs of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), which had been established after the measures to strengthen peacekeeping introduced in 2007, and that the current lack of military oversight, guidance and expertise had an impact on the effectiveness and security of current operations.

25. They therefore saw merit in providing additional resources, but remained to be fully convinced that the proposals made in that regard would improve demonstrably the establishment, deployment and operation of peacekeeping missions; produce systematic improvements in the strategic management, safety and security of field operations and reduce the duplication of functions within the Secretariat while strengthening unity of command.

26. The three delegations would like further information on the place of the integrated operational teams in the initiatives which the Committee was considering, on proposals for information analysis, on the possibility of making military personnel available to the Situation Centre and on the prospect of providing a rapidly deployable military mission start-up capability for the field. They also wondered about the feasibility of some proposals, including the idea of placing the Chief of the Military Field Support Service in the Office of Military Affairs while making that individual's staff part of the Department of Field Support. Being keen to encourage coordination and avoid duplication, they doubted the added value of replicating some existing functions within the Office of Military Affairs, and also emphasized the importance of a clear chain of command between Headquarters and the field, stretching from the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to the relevant Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the field, to the relevant Force Commander.

27. **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh) said that his delegation deeply regretted the current situation, in which documents dealing with matters of great importance to Bangladesh, as a major troop-contributing country, were issued late in the session, leaving little time for well-informed decisions.

28. His delegation agreed with the observations of the Advisory Committee regarding the lack of sufficiently detailed explanation and information in the preliminary report on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/279 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations (A/62/741), and regarding the risk of a shortage of expertise and experience in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support as a result of recruitment delays.

29. In his delegation's view, the action requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 19 of its resolution 61/279, in connection with the proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, had not been taken; it would like updated information on that matter. Representation of troop-contributing countries in Professional posts in those Departments and in the field was unbalanced. As the countries concerned had a long association with peacekeeping, their experience should be drawn upon at senior levels.

30. With regard to the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive analysis of the Office of Military Affairs in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (A/62/752), his delegation shared the observations of the Advisory Committee regarding the lack of input from the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the insufficient analysis of the Office's constraints and structure. Overall, the proposals regarding the Office were premature, as they were not backed by a thorough assessment of the impact of the restructuring of peacekeeping into the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support in terms of lessons learned, best practices and capacity and skills gaps. His delegation would therefore like more information on the basis for the proposals, taking into account the doctrine, planning and organization of peacekeeping.

31. **Mr. Mukai** (Japan) said that his delegation, agreeing with the observations of the Advisory Committee regarding the lack of sufficiently detailed explanation and information in the preliminary report on the status of implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/279 on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations (A/62/741), would like more information on the lessons learned and efficiency gains following the restructuring of peacekeeping into two departments one year previously. It would like to know how management challenges were being addressed and how coordination and accountability had improved.

32. Recalling that the General Assembly, in its resolution 61/279, had approved the establishment of a large number of posts, his delegation wondered how the Secretariat could justify a further 25-per-cent increase in posts, connected with the support account for peacekeeping operations. As that number excluded the requirements for the Office of Military Affairs, which should have been incorporated in the resource requests for the support account, the increase was in fact 35 per cent. In that connection, the piecemeal submission of the proposed budget for the Office of Military Affairs had prevented Member States from having a comprehensive overview of the budget proposal for the support account. It was encouraging that the report of the Advisory Committee, at least, had examined the support account, the Office of Military Affairs and the restructuring of peacekeeping in one document.

33. On the basis of the number of military and police personnel deployed in the previous twelve months, his delegation wished to know whether a surge in peacekeeping had in fact occurred in the current year, as it recognized that peacekeeping activity had naturally risen and fallen regularly in the past. The relationship between the growth in the support account and the growth in peacekeeping activities should be carefully considered. His delegation hoped that the report on the evolution of the support account expected by the General Assembly at its sixty-third session would make clear the division of labour between Headquarters and field missions and include a full analysis of the combination of military, police and civilian components. As the Advisory Committee had pointed out in its related report, more information on existing capacity should be presented whenever additional capacity was requested.

34. While understanding that the request to double the number of posts in the Office of Military Affairs had been motivated by a desire to strengthen information analysis, logistical support and planning and operational capabilities, his delegation wished to scrutinize the proposed budget of the Office as part of a more general effort to maintain budgetary discipline and exercise effective control over the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support. It agreed with the Advisory Committee that there was merit in enhancing the capacity of the Office in certain areas within its current structure, but cautioned against hasty action at the current transitional stage in the senior leadership of the two departments.

35. The relationship between the Office of Military Affairs and the Department of Field Support should be more clearly defined. In particular, more analysis should be undertaken before deciding whether to establish logistics posts within the Office, or recruit military officers for the existing logistics posts which supported field missions' military operations. Careful consideration should be given to how to incorporate into the Office of Military Affairs the military capabilities of the Strategic Military Cell, whose personnel, intelligence, operations and logistics services were dedicated exclusively to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The unclear interaction between the Office and integrated operational teams within the Office of Operations should be further explained.

36. In general terms, his delegation believed that close cooperation between the Office of Operations, Office of Military Affairs and Police Division in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support still appeared a better approach than creating posts in one department while embedding related staff in another.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

United Nations A/C.5/62/SR.51

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Summary record of the 51st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 13 June 2008, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

Contents

Agenda item 125: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*)

Agenda item 126: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Agenda item 141: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (*continued*)

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*)

Agenda item 143 Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*)

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*)

Agenda item 146: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (*continued*)

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (*continued*)

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08-38102 (E)

Agenda item 148: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*)

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*)

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*)

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*)

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (*continued*)

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*)

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*)

Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (*continued*)

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (*continued*)

Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*)

Agenda item 161: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*)

Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (*continued*)

Agenda item 126: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Other matters

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed sixty-second session of the General Assembly

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

Agenda item 125: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.38)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.38: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

1. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.38 was adopted.*

Agenda item 126: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.39)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.39: Procurement reform

2. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee), referring to the second line of paragraph 33 of the draft resolution, said that the words "for approval" should be inserted between the words "considered" and "the".

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.39, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/30, A/C.5/62/L.50, A/C.5/62/L.56 and A/C.5/62/L.57)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.57: Support account for peacekeeping operations

4. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.57 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.50: Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

5. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, since the Fifth Committee had failed to reach consensus on its draft resolution on cross-cutting issues, the words "and 62/____ of ____" should be deleted from paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.50. Similar references should also be deleted from all subsequent draft resolutions on the financing of peacekeeping operations.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.50, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.56: Reformed procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment

7. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.56 was adopted.*

Oral draft decision: Use of 300-series and 100-series appointments

8. **The Chairman** drew attention to the following oral draft decision entitled "Use of 300-series and 100-series appointments":

> *"The General Assembly,*
>
> (a) *Decides* to continue to suspend the application of the four-year maximum limit for appointments of limited duration until 31 December 2008;
>
> (b) *Authorizes* the Secretary-General bearing in mind paragraph (a) above, to reappoint under the 100 series of the Staff Rules those mission staff whose service under 300-series contracts has reached the four-year limit by 31 December 2008, provided that their functions have been reviewed and found necessary and their performance has been confirmed as fully satisfactory;
>
> (c) *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the practice of using 300-series contracts as the primary instrument for the appointment of new staff."

9. *The oral draft decision was adopted.*

10. **The Chairman** said that the oral draft decision would be included in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

Note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/62/30)

11. **The Chairman** drew attention to the note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy

(A/C.5/62/30), which, in accordance with the prorating procedures approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/221 B, indicated the amounts to be apportioned for each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated share for the support account and UNLB.

12. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said that the note by the Secretary-General indicated how resources would be apportioned among the budgets of the individual peacekeeping operations. The prorated shares for each mission would be included in the Fifth Committee's final reports.

13. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the information contained in the note by the Secretary-General.

14. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 141: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.35)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.35: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

15. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.35 was adopted.*

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.49: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

16. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in paragraph 17 of the draft resolution, the amount corresponding to estimated staff assessment income should read "786,613 dollars".

17. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.49, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Agenda item 143: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.40)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.40: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

18. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.40 was adopted.*

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.48)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.48: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

19. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.48 was adopted.*

Agenda item 146: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.37)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.37: Financing of the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

20. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said that, should the Fifth Committee adopt draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.37, the Secretariat would adjust the amounts corresponding to each Member State's respective share of credits for the period ended 30 June 2006. Those shares had previously been approved by the General Assembly in paragraphs 9, 11 and 12 of its resolution 61/282. The Secretariat would inform Member States individually of the impact of the adjustments on the amount of their outstanding assessments for the Mission, where applicable. Those adjustments would supersede actions previously taken by the Secretariat in respect of the disposition of credits, including any actions taken in accordance with instructions previously communicated to the Secretariat by Member States, and would be reflected in the schedule of the status of contributions and the financial statements of the Mission for the period ending 30 June 2008.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.37 was adopted.*

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.43: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

22. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.43 was adopted.*

Agenda item 148: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.53)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.53: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

23. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.53 reflected the apportionment among Member States of the amounts required for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2008, whereas the Mission's prorated share in respect of the support account and UNLB covered the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. Accordingly, paragraphs 17 and 18 of the draft resolution would be amended as follows:

> "17. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of ____ dollars, comprising the amount of ____ dollars for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2008 at a monthly rate of ____ dollars, and the amount of ____ dollars for the support account and the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 August 2008 to 30 June 2009 at a monthly rate of ____ dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008 and 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission;
>
> 18. *Also decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 17 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the amount of ____ dollars for the period from 1 August 2008 to 30 June 2009, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 974,917 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of ____ dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the support account and the prorated share of ____ dollars of the estimated staff assessment income approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;"

24. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.53, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.41)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.41: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

25. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.41 was adopted.*

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.44: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

26. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.44 was adopted.*

Agenda item 151: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.54: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

27. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.54 was adopted.*

Agenda item 152: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.45: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

28. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.45 was adopted.*

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.46)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.46: Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

29. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.46 was adopted.*

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47: Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

30. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that, during informal consultations, the Committee had agreed to incorporate the following three paragraphs into draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47:

"*Decides* to maintain a D-2 post for the leadership of the Strategic Military Cell and a General Service post;

Decides that the target date of the termination of the Strategic Military Cell shall be no later than 30 June 2010;

Requests the Secretary-General to assess whether the strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs approved in its resolution 62/____* has provided sufficient capacity and capability to meet the target date referred to above for the termination of the Strategic Military Cell and to report thereon in the context of the comprehensive report requested in its resolution 62/____;*

* See A/C.5/62/L.57"

31. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that a single recorded vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 21 of the draft resolution had been requested.

32. **Mr. Rosales Díaz** (Nicaragua), speaking on a point of order, enquired which delegation had requested the recorded vote.

33. **Mr. Traystman** (United States of America) said that his delegation had requested the recorded vote. Speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, he said that the United States strongly supported the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). However, it was procedurally incorrect to use a General Assembly resolution on funding to pursue claims against a Member State. It was for that reason that his delegation had opposed similar draft resolutions in previous years, which had not been adopted by consensus and had required Israel to meet costs stemming from the 1996 Qana incident. Since shortly after the inception of the United Nations, the practice had been for the Secretary-General to present and pursue the Organization's claims against a State or States. Using a funding resolution to legislate a settlement was inappropriate, politicized the work of the Fifth Committee and must be avoided in the present and future cases.

34. **Mr. Fluss** (Israel) expressed his delegation's full support for UNIFIL, which played an essential role in implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and bringing security and stability to the region. However, his delegation was once again forced to break from consensus on the draft resolution at issue in order to express its concern at a highly questionable procedure. There was no precedent whatsoever for one Member State to bear sole financial responsibility for damage sustained by United Nations peacekeeping forces. In every other situation, Member States acted in accordance with the principle of collective responsibility set out in Article 17 of the Charter and absorbed such costs within the general peacekeeping budget; UNIFIL should not be an exception.

35. The practice of calling on Israel to bear financial responsibility for damage sustained by a peacekeeping force contradicted not only the Charter, but also paragraph 8 of the draft resolution itself, which stated that all future and existing peacekeeping missions should be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements. All United Nations Member States concerned with upholding appropriate standards and ensuring transparency should vote against the adoption of the draft resolution, which was politically motivated and called into question the objectivity and relevance of the Organization as a whole.

36. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a single recorded vote was taken on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 21 of the draft resolution.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

37. *The fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 21 of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47 were retained by 74 votes to 4, with 45 abstentions.**

38. *A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as a whole.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia.

39. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47 as a whole, as orally amended, was adopted by 124 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.*

40. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the States members of the European Union had abstained in the vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 21 of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47 because the text contained therein was inappropriate in the context of a resolution on the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects of the event, including the incident at Qana, had been debated by the General Assembly in April 1996, resulting in resolution 50/22 C of 25 April 1996. The European Union had stated its position on those political aspects at the meeting at which the Assembly had adopted that resolution. The European Union wished to underline, once again, that the Committee's consultations should have been confined to budgetary issues.

41. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon) said that Lebanon observed the principle that the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations was the collective responsibility of all Member States, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 55/235. However, the principle of collective responsibility did not contradict the general principle under international law of State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts, including compensation for material damage resulting from such acts. That principle was enshrined in the Charter and implied in paragraph 1 (e) of General Assembly resolution 55/235, which stated that, where circumstances warranted, the Assembly should give special consideration to the situation of any Member

* The delegation of El Salvador subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the retention of all four paragraphs.

States that were victims of, or otherwise involved in, the events or actions leading to a peacekeeping operation. It was on that basis that 15 previous General Assembly resolutions had requested the payment of compensation to the United Nations for the damage incurred as a result of the attack on the peacekeeping post at Qana. That request was reiterated in the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 21 of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.47.

42. While his delegation appreciated the important role played by UNIFIL in southern Lebanon, it had expressed serious reservations about some elements of the report on the budget for UNIFIL for 2008/09 (A/62/751) and the performance report for the period 2006/07 (A/62/632). Those reservations related specifically to the responsibilities of the Head of the Tel Aviv Office in terms of liaising, cooperating and maintaining relations with troop-contributing countries as well as other United Nations entities located in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In his view, most of those countries and entities could be contacted from UNIFIL House in Beirut or, if necessary, from United Nations Headquarters in New York. Furthermore, as well as recording all violations of the Blue Line, whether by air, ground or sea, performance reports should clearly indicate the party responsible for such violations. Future reports on the financing and performance of UNIFIL should take full account of his delegation's views.

43. **Mr. Fluss** (Israel) said that the Committee's vote on the draft resolution at issue was a regrettable repeat of the annual political manoeuvring engaged in by certain Member States in order to attribute both blame and financial responsibility for the unfortunate Qana incident to Israel. Meanwhile, Hizbullah's long-standing strategy of hiding behind and within United Nations and civilian infrastructure to carry out deadly terrorist attacks against Israel continued to threaten regional peace and security and to be virtually ignored, thereby seriously jeopardizing the future of peacekeeping missions.

44. A number of recent reports of the Secretary-General illustrated the dangers that a rearmed Hizbullah presented to the region. Hizbullah adapted its modus operandi to UNIFIL, as evidenced by the incident that had taken place during the night of 30 to 31 March 2008, when a UNIFIL patrol had encountered unidentified armed elements in its area of operation. However, such matters should be handled by the Security Council and other political bodies of the United Nations, not the Fifth Committee.

45. As the twenty-fourth largest contributor to peacekeeping operations, Israel clearly supported the objectives of peacekeeping, both financially and morally, in particular the collective nature of its financing. The same could not be said of those Member States that had singled out Israel for condemnation. As the number of peacekeeping operations increased, the role of peacekeeping and peacekeepers attained ever greater significance. For the sake of peacekeeping, Israel called on Member States to avoid politicizing the issue.

46. **Ms. Stevens** (Australia) said that although Australia had long supported UNIFIL, she had abstained in the vote on the draft resolution because she disagreed with the use of political language in Fifth Committee resolutions.

47. **Mr. Poulin** (Canada) said that Canada continued to regret the inclusion in the annual resolution on the financing of UNIFIL of inappropriate paragraphs on which a separate vote had been requested. The paragraphs in question prevented consensus by undermining a long-held understanding that political considerations had no place in resolutions of a technical nature, including those on the financing of peacekeeping operations, which must be neutral and procedural texts. Moreover, bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), it was inappropriate to target one party for criticism and non-compliance with United Nations resolutions. His delegation hoped that the proponents of the language in the resolution would re-evaluate their actions and withdraw the paragraphs in question in the future. That said, Canada strongly supported the mandate of UNIFIL and the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

48. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that his delegation had intended to focus on the financial and budgetary aspects of the draft resolution, but the Israeli delegation had raised allegations that required a response. The representative of Israel had described the events that had taken place in Qana in 1996 as unfortunate. In fact, those events had amounted to a criminal targeted attack on civilians, which had left more than 100 dead, mostly women, children and the elderly. Some of the survivors of that

first Israeli massacre, many of them children who had been left disabled, had again been ruthlessly targeted in the Qana massacre of 2006.

49. Hizbullah had existed neither in 1978, when Israel had first invaded Lebanon, nor in 1982, when it had invaded for the second time. Hizbullah was a popular resistance movement that had arisen in response to occupation. The Government of Lebanon strongly condemned all forms of terrorism, including its ultimate form, State terrorism, and wished to recall that the root cause of the Middle East crisis was the Israeli occupation.

50. If Israel wished to contribute to the establishment of a safe and secure environment in southern Lebanon, it should withdraw from the lands it was occupying there, whether in the Shebaa Farms, the Kafr Shuba hills or the village of Ghajar. The Government of Lebanon highly appreciated the role of UNIFIL and invited Israel to translate its words into action by cooperating with the Force: Israel's failure to do so, and indeed its intimidation of UNIFIL, were well documented. Furthermore, Israel should implement Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) by providing UNIFIL with maps showing the location of cluster bombs and unexploded devices that it had left in Lebanon in 2006; one of those mines had killed another Lebanese civilian the previous day.

Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.36)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.36: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

51. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.36 was adopted.*

Agenda item 155: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.55: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan

52. **The Chairman** said that, owing to the late submission of documents, the Committee had been forced to consider the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) in its advance, unedited form. There had been some confusion regarding differences in paragraph numbering between the advance, unedited copy and the final version of the report, which had persisted even after the numbering had been corrected. That situation had, in turn, resulted in differing interpretations of the paragraphs of the report referred to in the draft resolution, and the preferred outcome of one delegation had not been reflected in the draft resolution approved during informal consultations. However, in the interests of adopting a budget for UNMIS, the delegation concerned had demonstrated flexibility and agreed to join the consensus on the draft resolution.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.55 was adopted.*

54. **Mr. Matsunaga** (Japan) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution but expressed dismay that the problems relating to the interpretation of paragraphs had been attributed to the late submission of documents rather than to inappropriate procedure. Indeed, his delegation had left the informal consultations on the draft resolution in question after corrections had been made to the paragraph numbering and once it had been stated that a consensus had been reached. However, unbeknown to his delegation, the informal consultations had subsequently been reopened. It was important to clarify which delegations had followed standard procedure with due diligence and which had not. That said, in order to avoid complicating matters further, his delegation had taken a flexible approach and had decided to join the consensus on the draft resolution.

Agenda item 156: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.42)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.42: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

55. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.42 was adopted.*

Agenda item 161: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.51)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.51: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

56. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee), said that draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.51 reflected the apportionment among Member States of the amounts required for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2008, whereas the

Operation's prorated share in respect of the support account and UNLB covered the full period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. Accordingly, paragraph 18 of the draft resolution would be amended as follows:

> "18. *Decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of _____ dollars, comprising the amount of _____ dollars for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 August to 31 December 2008 at a monthly rate of _____ dollars, and the amount of _____ dollars for the support account and the United Nations Logistics Base for the period from 1 August 2008 to 30 June 2009 at a monthly rate of _____ dollars, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 61/243 and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2008 and 2009, as set out in its resolution 61/237, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Operation;"

57. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.51, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.52: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

58. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the figures in paragraphs 16 and 18 of the draft resolution corresponding to the amounts to be apportioned among Member States should be deleted.

59. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.52, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Agenda item 126: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.58)

Draft decision A/C.5/62/L.58: Questions deferred for future consideration

60. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that an additional report, entitled "Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2007", should be added to the list of reports set out in the draft decision. The footnote corresponding to that report should read "A/62/281(Part II)/Add.1".

61. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt), speaking also on behalf of India, expressed regret at the Committee's failure to reach consensus on the reports of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions (A/61/867 and A/62/757) and the corresponding two reports of the Advisory Committee (A/61/920 and A/62/816) referred to in the draft decision. Deferring consideration of those reports until the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, however, was not necessarily the best way forward, given that the Committee had failed to achieve consensus on the issue for years. He therefore proposed deleting the references to those reports from the draft decision. The references to the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts (A/62/726) and the relevant report of the Advisory Committee (A/62/818) should also be deleted for the same reason. It was his understanding that, unless specifically requested by Member States, there would be no further reports on the question of consolidation.

62. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, echoed the regrets expressed by the representative of Egypt regarding the lack of consensus on the reports in question. It was her understanding, however, that the practice of the Committee was to defer until a future session had any questions on which consensus had not been achieved. If the proposal made by the representative of Egypt was to be entertained, clarification of the practical implications of such a measure for future sessions would be required.

63. **Mr. Hoe** (Singapore), supported by **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria), **Mr. Matsunaga** (Japan), **Mr. Diab** (Syrian Arab Republic) and **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon), endorsed the proposal made by the representative of Egypt, because it would allow resources to be devoted more usefully to other issues.

64. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee), responding to the request for clarification, said that, should the Committee adopt the proposal put forward by the representative of Egypt, the reports on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions would not be scheduled for consideration by the Committee at the second part of the resumed sixty-third session. However, even if those reports were not deferred until the sixty-third session, the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/323 and subsequent resolutions, was mandated to submit regular reports on the updated financial position

of closed peacekeeping missions. The Committee would therefore necessarily receive a report on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2008.

65. Similarly, if the reports on the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts were not deferred until the sixty-third session, they would not be scheduled for consideration at that session under the agenda item devoted to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations. That said, the Committee could decide to discuss such issues under any item it chose.

66. *Draft decision A/C.5/62/L.58, as orally amended, was adopted.*

67. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union and supported by **Ms. Stevens** (Australia), said that, in light of the explanation provided by the Secretary, her delegation would support the rather unusual proposal made by the representative of Egypt with a view to facilitating the completion of the Committee's work. However, the decision not to defer consideration of the reports in question constituted an exception to established practice and, as such, should not set a precedent. Furthermore, it was her understanding that the European Union could, and probably would, bring up those questions at the sixty-third session.

68. Since the Committee had been close to an agreement on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions, the next report of the Secretary-General on that issue, which was due to be submitted to the Committee at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, should be given proper consideration. As for the reports on the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts, although the Committee had seemed far from reaching consensus, she did not wish to prejudge the outcome of future discussions, particularly since the objective of such measures was to improve the efficiency of the Organization as a whole.

69. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt), supported by **Mr. Hoe** (Singapore), stressed that, despite the efforts of a group of like-minded countries, it had once again been impossible to reach consensus on the issue of closed peacekeeping missions. Similarly, although his delegation was neither for nor against the proposals set out in the reports on the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts, consensus had likewise proved impossible. The valuable time of the Committee would therefore be better spent on time-bound issues and issues likely to garner all members' support.

Other matters

70. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia) speaking on behalf of the European Union and referring to the letter dated 5 June 2008 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee, said that the European Union continued to place great importance on both the capital master plan and enterprise resource planning (ERP) and was committed to ensuring that the renovation of the Headquarters complex was completed on time and within the agreed budget. Although the Advisory Committee's schedule had not allowed for the proper scrutiny of the proposals on associated costs at the current session, urgent measures were needed to prevent further delays.

71. She recalled that, in its resolution 62/87, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to make every effort to absorb associated costs within the approved budget of the capital master plan. The proposal set out in the letter complied with that request, provided that the detailed proposals on associated costs received full consideration at the sixty-third session.

72. While she welcomed the proposal to allocate $10.4 million to ensure continuity of operations relating to the introduction of ERP systems, she expressed concern that the General Assembly's approval of the concept of ERP did not justify the allocation of resources in the manner proposed.

73. It would be useful to know what would happen if the Committee did not pronounce itself on the Secretary-General's letter. She also requested a full breakdown of the resources proposed in the letter and asked how the $13.2 million for the data centre specifically aided the progress of the capital master plan.

74. **Mr. Sach** (Controller) said that the purpose of the letter in question was to share information, not to seek approval from the Committee. The request that additional costs be absorbed into the approved budget, set out in General Assembly resolution 62/87, was seen as an active mandate. It would be imprudent to suspend the capital master plan for want of a decision on associated costs: the resulting delays would lead to additional costs amounting to millions of dollars. In

accordance with resolution 62/87, those resources should be made available by the end of 2008 so that the plan could proceed unimpeded.

75. The sum of $9.5 million fell under sections 2, 27, 28, 33 and 35 of the budget. Of that amount, $3.6 million would be earmarked for other staff costs; just over $500,000 for contractual services; $750,000 for general operating expenses; $770,000 for supplies and materials; $2.25 million for furniture and equipment; just under $1 million for improvement of premises; and $640,000 for other costs.

76. The sum of $13.2 million would be used for moving the data centre to Long Island City. That amount included $2.6 million for construction arrangements; $150,000 for furniture and equipment; and just under $500,000 for general operating expenses.

77. It was important to share information on ERP because the implementation process was long and gradual. Procurement elements of a complex nature needed to be programmed. A request for proposal had been issued, and technical evaluation was needed to verify that the software solutions proposed were adequate. In order to ensure that the implementation process was not interrupted, the anticipated resources for the second half of 2008 should make provision for the evaluation of software solutions, relevant contract negotiations, a business process review comparing current management situations with expected ones, and the identification of system integrator requirements.

78. None of those measures amounted to the implementation of new ERP systems. Rather, they were all preparatory steps aimed at taking forward the course of action set out in General Assembly resolution 60/283, which consisted in replacing the Integrated Management Information System with a next-generation ERP system or other comparable system.

79. **Mr. Rashkow** (United States of America) said that he shared the European Union's concern over the proposals regarding the capital master plan and ERP, which raised serious issues relating to the Secretariat's authority to take action, especially with regard to the Long Island City data centre. He urged the Secretariat not to move forward before the Fifth Committee and the General Assembly had had time to discuss the issue.

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed sixty-second session of the General Assembly

80. **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Committee had taken many important decisions on the regular budget, the peacekeeping budget and certain aspects of reform. However, a number of other questions remained to be discussed, such as the administration of justice, ERP, human resources management reform and the budget outline. The issue of the delayed submission of various reports of the Secretary-General and Advisory Committee remained cause for concern. As a result of that situation, some reports had been submitted for consideration in only one official language; the European Union stressed that it had agreed to that arrangement on an exceptional basis.

81. **Mr. Thomas** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, also expressed concern about the late issuance of documents. He looked forward to engaging in a discussion of possible solutions to that problem.

82. **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that his delegation had repeatedly drawn attention to the problems posed by late issuance of documents. He trusted that that situation would not be repeated in future.

83. After the customary exchange of courtesies, in which **Ms. Simkić** (Slovenia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, **Mr. Thomas** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the African Group, **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, **Mr. Poulin** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina), **Mr. Fermín** (Dominican Republic), **Mr. Belfais** (France), **Mr. de Rijk** (Netherlands), **Mr. Sena** (Brazil), **Mr. Saizonou** (Benin), **Mr. Mičánek** (Czech Republic) and **Mr. Berti Oliva** (Cuba) took part, **the Chairman** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the second part of the resumed sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.